

Notes on veliids from Venezuela, with the description of a new *Microvelia* (*Hemiptera*)

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With 1 figure

ABSTRACT

A small sample of veliids from the Cueva Alfredo Jahn Miranda, Venezuela, contained *Rhagovelia sinuata* Gould and *Microvelia cavernula* n. sp.

Through the kindness of Dr. Bernd Hauser of the Museum of Natural History of Geneva I have been permitted to study a small collection of veliids from the Cueva Alfredo Jahn Miranda in Venezuela.

This collection contained two species of veliids including a new *Microvelia* described below.

I am indebted to Dr. R. C. Froeschner for furnishing information concerning material held in the Drake Collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

For all measurements given in units, 60 units equals 1 mm.

***Rhagovelia sinuata* Gould**

Rhagovelia sinuata Gould 1931. Kans. Univ. Sci. Bull. 20: 42 (type locality, Ecuador).

BACON (1956) listed this species from Ecuador and Peru, but recently I have

examined specimens from Trinidad and Surinam, thus its occurrence in Venezuela is not surprising.

Material examined: 1 ♀, Venezuela, Cueva Alfredo Jahn Miranda, 21.2.1968, Bordon, Strinati.

Microvelia cavernula n. sp.

Apterous Male: Moderately long, slightly ovate, ground color yellowish brown; marked with brown dorsally on head, posterior 2/3 of pronotum, lateral portions and posterior margins of tergites, genital segments; antenna, legs except for basal portions of femora, brownish; covered with fine pubescence.

Head: Convex above, median furrow inconspicuous, width across eyes 0.43 mm, length 0.33 mm, interocular space 15. Antennal formula 1-IV, 11:10:16:23; segment 1 stout, segment 2 semi-stout, segments 3 and 4 slender; all segments with fine pubescence and longer hairs. Rostrum reaching beyond front coxae.

Thorax: Pronotal length 0.25 mm; width across humeri 0.58 mm; mesonotum completely covered by pronotum; metanotum with angles broadly exposed; pronotum slightly convex, coarsely and shallowly pitted, lateral margins broadly rounded, anteriorly convergent. Legs moderately long, covered with pale hairs, fore tibia with short comb (4). Measurements of legs as follows:

	Femur	Tibia	Tarsal 1	Tarsal 2
Anterior	27	22	13	
Middle	30	30	6	10
Posterior	36	40	7	11

Abdomen: Tergite 1 with narrow (1) transverse sulcus bordering pronotum; length of abdominal tergites I-VII, 10:9:8:7:6:8:13; first genital segment protruding from tergite 7 by 0.15 mm, emarginate apically; maximum abdominal width 0.67 mm across tergite 3; connexiva moderately broad (8), slightly raised, lateral margins evenly slightly convex. Abdomen slightly flattened medially on ventrites 6 and 7, slightly depressed laterad from flattened region; segment 7 with a deep excavation posteriorly (fig. 1); genital segments formed as shown in figure 1; parameres not visible.

Apterous Female: Similar to male in general appearance, but with connexiva vertical anteriorly becoming reflexed over ventrites 6 and 7; body somewhat more robust.

Size: Male: Length 1.70 mm; width 0.67 mm. *Female*: Length 1.87 mm; width 0.70 mm.

Material examined: Holotype (♂), Allotype (♀), and paratypes 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Venezuela, Cueva Alfredo Jahn Miranda, 21.2.1968, Bordon, Strinati. All material

is deposited in the Museum of Natural History of Geneva, except two paratypes (♂, ♀), which are in the Polhemus Collection.

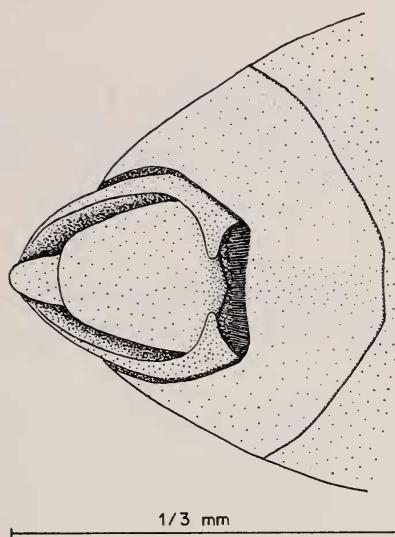


FIG. 1.

Microvelia cavernula n. sp., ventrite 7 and genital segments.

Diagnosis : *Microvelia cavernula* n. sp. belongs to the group of *Microvelia* in which the pronotum completely covers the mesonotum. It most closely resembles *M. ioana* Drake and Hottes 1952, however the latter differs in having the lateral margins of the pronotum constricted medially whereas in *cavernula* they are evenly rounded. The male of *ioana* is not known, but the deep excavation between ventrite 7 and the genital segments seems to be unique to *cavernula*.

REFERENCES

BACON, J. A. 1956. *A taxonomic study of the genus Rhagovelia (Hemiptera, Veliidae) of the Western Hemisphere*, Kans. Univ. Sci. Bull. 38 (1): 695-913.
DRAKE, C. J. and F. C. HOTTES. 1952. *New Neogean water-striders of the genus Microvelia*. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 51 (2): 63-67.